

Brick Cleaning with High Pressure Water

CLEANING BRICKS WITH A HIGH PRESSURE WATER JET

For best results, clean bricks by hand during installation. High pressure water jets may be used to remove minor mortar stains from clay brickwork.

The following procedure should be followed:

1. Allow the mortar to harden for at least 3 days, but not longer than 3 weeks. The longer the brickwork is left, the harder it is to clean - especially white cement.
2. Remove any large mortar dags with appropriate hand tools.
3. Protect adjacent materials as recommended by the manufacturer of the proprietary cleaner.
4. Saturate brickwork with clean water and never let the wall dry out during cleaning. Work on small areas at a time.
5. Test a small unseen section prior to full scale cleaning.
6. Apply acid solution by hand (refer to 'brick cleaning with hydrochloric acid').
7. Wash the wall with high pressure water after allowing the solution to remain on the wall for 3-6 minutes.

WATER JET OPERATING TECHNIQUE

- Keep pressure low - maximum 7000kPa (approximately 1000psi).
- Use wide fan spray nozzle (15°).
- Keep the nozzle 500mm from the wall, and never closer than 300mm
- Use 'runs' of approximately 1m in width and double clean to ensure the best result.
- Keep the nozzle moving constantly to avoid surface abrasion in one spot.

PRECAUTION

Do not use a turbo jet head, as damage to the brick surface and mortar is likely to occur. Applying chemicals with high pressure cleaners is dangerous and NOT recommend for safe and successful cleaning.

Precautions must be taken so that the bricks and mortar joints are not damaged using the process.

If staining occurs, refer to Think Brick Australia's manual titled Clay Masonry Cleaning Manual available for download at www.thinkbrick.com.au/technical

